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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3797

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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AMCONSUL DANANG

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETN-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT APRIL 10-16.

1974

PART 1 SUMMARY

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 1 REMAINED GENERALLY LOW; COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN QUANG NGAI DROPPED BUT GVN 1ST DIV UNITS RECEIVED ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE IN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ACTIVITY IN THUA THIEN. IN MR 2 THE OVERALL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DECLINED BUT HEAVY FIGHTING INVOLVING REGIMENTAL SIZED UNITS OCCURRED NEAR PLEIKU CITY. ACTIVITY IN MR 3 DECLINED FROM THE HIGH LEVELS OF RECENT WEEKS BUT STILL REMAINED WELL ABOVE THE AVERAGE OF RECENT MONTHS AS NVA DIVISIONS MAINTAINED HEAVY PRESSURE ON GVN POSITIONS V IN WESTERN MR 3 AND ON THE PHUOC TUY/LONG KHANB BORDER IN THE EAST, ARVN TROOPS CONTINUED ON ALERT IN EXPECTATION OF MAJOR ENEMY ATTACKS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS THROUGHOUT THE REGION. THE LOSS OF THE TONG LE CHAN RANGER CAMP WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER SIEGE AND RECEIVED ONLY AIR DROPPED SUPPLIES FOR MORE THAN A YEAR WAS THE WEEK'S MOST SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. INCIDENTS IN MR 4 DROPPED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, WITH ONLY DINH TUONG CONTINUING TO REPORT A HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. IN THE TPJMC, THE GVN REACTED TO REPEATED "PRG" REFUSALS TO ACCEPT LOCAL CEASE FIRES AND ICCS INVESTIGATIONS AT THE TONG LE CHAN AND DUC HUE RANGER BASES AND THE SUBSEQUENT FALL OF TONG LE CHAN BY SUSPENDING THE PRG'S LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT, CANCELING THE REGULAR "PRG" PRESS CONFERENCE AND THREATENING TO "REVISE, RESTRICT, OR SUPPRESS" THE 11 POINT LIST OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ACCORDED THE "PRG" AS A MEMBER OF THE TPJMC. THE ICCS INCONCLUSIVELY DEBATED HOW TO GO ABOUT RESUMPTION OF THE CAI LAY INVESTIGATION AND HOW TO COPE WITH THE FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH THREATENS TO PARALYZE IT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

PART II COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA ON TONG G CHAN AND UMSM "VIOLATIONS" OF THE CEASE-FIRE

2. HANOI AND ITS SOUTHERN SPOKESMAN, THE "PRG", HAVE PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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DICTABLY ASSERTED THAT THE FALL OF TONG LE CHAN WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY GVN "NIBBLING OPERATIONS" AND OTHER ASSORTED WAR ACTS CONDUCTED FROM WITHIN THE BASE PERIMETER. COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE ADMITTED LAYING SIEGE TO THE BASE BUT HAVE DENIED INVOLVEMENT BY NVA GROUND FORCES ASSERTING INSTEAD THAT THE DEFENDERS "FLED THEIR BASE" BECAUSE THEY WERE UNWILLING TO SERVE AS "THE SCAEGOAT OF THE BELLICOSE POLICY" OF THE GVN.

3. IN A TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OVER RUNNING OF TONG LE CHAN, HANOI AND THE VIET CONG HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE US AND GVN FOR VARIOUS ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY IN AN APRIL 16 STATEMENT CHARGED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD "BRAZENLY DISTORTED" THE AGREEMENT IN RECOMMENDING A CONTINUATION OF US AID TO THE GVN. THREE DAYS EARLIER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE "PRG" CLAIMED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD "PUBLICLY ADMITTED THE WARLIKE POLICY OF THE US. "BOTH STATEMENTS DEMAND THAT THE GVN" SERIOUSLY RESPOND" TO THE "PRG'S" SIX POINT PROPOSAL OF MARCH 22.

PART III ICCS

4. THE ICCS INCONCLUSIVELY DEBATED HOW TO GO ABOUT RESUMPTION OF THE CAI LAY INVESTIGATION AND HOW TO COPE WITH THE FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH THREATENS TO PARALYZE IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ITT/FEC HAS NOW THREATENED TO SUSPEND ITS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES UNLESS THE ICCS MAKES ANOTHER SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENT BY APRIL 20. THE POLISH DELEGATIONS HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY DISTRACTED BY THE DEFECTION OF ONE OF ITS INTERPRETERS WHO CAME TO THE US EMBASSY AT DOAWN ON APRIL 15 AND WAS THEREUPON TURNED OVER TO THE GVN.

PART IV TPJMC

5. IN THE TPJMC THE GVN REACTED TO REPEATED "PRG"REFUSALS TO ACCEPT LOCAL CEASE FIRES AND ICCS INVESTIGATIONS AT THE TONG LE CHAN AND DUC HUE RANGER BASES AND THE SUBSEQUENT FALL OF TONG LE HCAN BY SUSPENDING THE V"PRG" LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT CANCELING THE REGULAR "PRG"PRESS CONFERENCE AND THREATENING TO "REVISE, RESTRICT OR SUPPRESS" THE 11 POINT LIST OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ACCORDED THE "PRG" AS A MEMBER OF THE TPJMC.

6. THE GVN DELEGATION HAS DECIDED FURTHER THAT IT WILL NO
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LONGER SUBJECT ITSELF TO "PRG"DILATIONS ON SUBJECTS NOT RELATED TO MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE CEASE FIRE OR TO PROPAGANDA TIRADES WHICH HAVE NO BEARING ON SPECIFIC MATTERS WHICH THE VGVN DESIRES TO DISCUSS. ACCORDING TO DEPTY GVN NEGOTIATOR COLONEL DOA TVHE GVN WILL TERMINATE THE MEETINGS EARLY WHENEVER THE"PRG" REFUSES TO STICK TO AN AGENDA.

7. TONG LE CHAN MAY HAVE VIRTUALLY VECLIPSED CAI LAY IN THE MEDIA BUT THE LATTER SEEMS TO BE PROVIDING SOMETHING OF A REFUGE FOR THE ICCS. THAT BODY HAS IGNORED THE FIVE RECENT GVN REQUESTS FOR AN INVESTIGATION AT THE RECENTLY LOST GVN RANGER CAMP BUT HAS DECIDED TO RETURN TO CAI LAY TO CONTINUE ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE SCHOOL MORTARING. DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE ON THE INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE BUT ENSURING THAT ANOTHER PUBLIC OUTBURST DOES NOT OCCUR DURING THE RENEWED INVESTIGATION MAY

BE DIFFICULT IF "PRG" WITNESSES ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE ICCS.
THE GVN IS TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO PRECLUDE THIS.

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LIMDIS

PART V -- MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 87 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 12, AND AN INCREASE OVER THE TOTAL OF 71 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. GVN CASUALTIES: 43 KIA, 225 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 101 KIA, 3 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS OF NOTE IN QQ NG TRI. IN THUA THIEN, HOWEVER, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED GROUND ATTACKS AND SHELLED POSITIONS OF THE 1ST ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION NEAR MO TAU MOUNTAIN (YD8408) SOUTHWEST OF HUE. ARVN INTELLIGENCE SPECULATES THAT THE PURPOSE IS TO SECURE AN INFILTRATION ROUTE ALONG THE NONG RIVER TO SUPPORT VCI IN THE LOWLANDS. IN ADDITION, THE NONG RIVER AREA HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF RICE TO THE ENEMY. THREE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO THE AREA TO COUNTER THE ENEMY EFFORT. THE AIRBORNE DIVISION HAS SENT THE 9TH BATTALION TO PHU LOC DISTRICT TO PROVIDE SECURITY NORTH OF THE RAHTROAD. THE RAILROAD WAS FREE OF MINE INCIDENTS LAST WEEK.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM ENEMY MINE INCIDENTS DROPPED TO 10. ALTHOUGH ENEMY HARRASSING ATTACKS BY FIRE ON FRIENDLY UNITS CONTINUED, THERE WERE NO ENGAGEMENTS OF NOTE. IN NORMALLY QUIET QUANG TIN AN ENEMY COMPANY ATTACKED AN RF PLATOON.

4. IN QUANG NGAI THERE WAS LESS ACTIVITY THAN USUAL. THERE WAS A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST A RANGER POSITION IN SON TINH DISTRICT AND AN ATTACK BY FIRE ON AN RF POSITION IN DUC PHO WHICH CAUSED 20 HOUSES TO BE BURNED AT A RETURN-TO-VILLAGE SITE, BUT MOST GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO MINES
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OR BOOBY TRAPS.

5. ICCS:

THERE WAS NO ICCS ACTIVITY IN EITHER REGION I OR REGION II.

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LIMDIS

PART VI MR2

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: THE NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS BRIEFED IN THE MR DECLINED FROM 143 TO 131. MAJOR CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, WHERE TWO RANGER BATTALIONS CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS. THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 33 INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE, SLIGHTLY FEWER THAN THE 39 REPORTED IN BINH DINH. INCIDENTS ALSO OCCURRED IN PHU YEN (18), QUANG DUC (15), KONTUM (13), BINH THUAN (6), LAM DONG (4), DARLAC (1), NINH THUAN (1), AND TUYEN DUC QLM RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE PLACED AT 44 KIA, 105 WIA AND 17 MIA, ALTHOUGH REPORTING FROM PLEIKU SUGGESTS THEY WERE HIGHER. THE OFFICIAL FIGURES COMPARE WITH LAST WEEK'S 29 KIA, 117 WIA AND 22 MIA. CLAIMED COMMUNIST LOSSES INCREASED FROM 247 KIA AND 3 CAPTURED TO 504 KIA AND 8 CAPTURED. AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED IN PLEIKU (126), KONTUM (64), QUANG DUC (36), BINH DINH (18), LAM DONG (10), AND DARLAC (04).

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OF THE WEEK OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF THANH AN, SOUTHWEST OF PLEIKU CITY. ACCORDING TO A BRIEFING FROM THE 22ND DIVISION CHIEF OF STAFF, SPORADIC CONTACT BETWEEN THE 67TH RANGER BATTALION AND ELEMENTS OF THE 64TH NVA REGIMENT FROM APRIL 10 TO 13 RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT LOSSES, AS THE RANGERS SUFFERED 3 KIA, 55 WIA, 15 MIA HAD TWO M-41 TANKS DESTROYED AND ONE DAMAGED. THEY RETIRED FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO REGROUP. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PLACED AT 358 KIA, BUT ONLY ONE CREW-SERVED WEAPON WAS CAPTURED. ADDITIONALLY, RVNAF CLAIMS THE DESTRUCTION OF 6 ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND MORTARS. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 15, THE 82ND RANGER BATTALION AND THE 3/19TH ARMORED CAV. CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE 711, NORTH OF PLEI ME. CONTACT CONTINUED THROUGH THE DAY AND THE LATEST REPORT FROM PLEIKU INDICATES THE LOSS OF 21 KIA, 58 WIA, 57 MIA AND THE DESTRUCTION OF 11 APC'S. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PLACED AT 182 KILLED BY AIR, BUT THESE ARE UNCONFIRMED. ATTACKS RENEWED ON APRIL 16 AND CONTINUE. ALSO IN PLEIKU, THE COMMUNISTS SHELLED THE 22ND DIVISION HQ ON APRIL 15, INFLECTING 12 KIA AND 13 WIA. A SHELLING OF THANH AN SECTOR HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 15 RESULTED IN NO CASUALTIES. IN KONTUM
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PROVINCE, ELEMENTS OF THE 23RD RANGER GROUP ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE OUTPOST 5, WHICH OVERLOOKS THE VO DINH/KON BRAIH ROAD. THEY WERE WITHIN THE OUTPOST AT LEAST ONCE, BUT WERE DRIVEN BACK BY MORTAR FIRE.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: OUR PROVREP IN BINH DINH REPORTS THAT THERE WERE LOW LEVEL CONTACTS IN EACH OF THE PROVINCE'S DISTRICTS DURING THE WEEK, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF GVN INITIATIVES. THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT WHERE THE RANGERS AND RF HAVE BEEN ON COMBINED OPERATIONS AGAINST A WELL ENTRENCHED FOE. COMMUNIST FORCES AND STORAGE AREAS IN THE AN LAO VALLEY WERE ONCE AGAIN SUBJECTED TO ATTACK BY AIR AS VNAF STRUCK WITH 17 SORTIES WITH A-37'S AND GUNSHIPS. COMMUNISTS DISGUISED AS GVN SOLDIERS ASSASSINATED THREE VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN PHU CAT DISTRICT ON APRIL 15. COMMUNISTS IN PHU YEN PROVINCE STEPPED UP THEIR MINING OF QL 1 AND TL 6B DURING THE WEEK, WITH FOUR INCIDENTS IN ALL. ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARRASSMENTS ALSO INCREASED DURING THE WEEK, BUT IT STILL APPEARS THAT MOST INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE ARE THE RESULT OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

4. OTHER AREAS: IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE, AN UNKNOWN PERSON THREW A GRENADE INTO A CROWD WATCHING A VIS FILM ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 12. CASUALTIES WERE PLACED AT 35 CIVILIANS WOUNDED AND 5 KILLED. THREE VIS CADRE WERE ALSO WOUNDED. THE OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST SQUADRONS AT BU PRANG/BU BONG, QUANG DUC PROVINCE IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY AND HAS YET TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT CONTACT. IN LAM DONG PROVINCE, THERE WERE 4 MINOR INCIDENTS AND 10 AIR STRIKES REPORTED. THE AIR ACTIVITY, WHICH IS UNUSUAL FOR THE PROVINCE, WAS DIRECTED AGAINST A SUSPECTED COMMUNIST TROOP CONCENTRATION.

5. ICCS: ON APRIL 12/13 THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR VISITED SEVERAL REGION III SITES TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE LOCAL SITUATION AND INSPECT SECURITY CONDITIONS.

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LIMDIS

PART VII -- MR 3

1. MR 3 MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED THIS WEEK BUT STILL REMAINED

WELL ABOVE AVERAGE LEVELS OF THE PAST MONTHS. THE LOSS OF TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP WAS THE DOMINANT EVENT OF THE WEEK. FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF 2 RF OUTPOSTS AT THE LONG KHANH/PHUOC TUY BORDER AND CHI LINH BRIDGE, THIS WAS THE FOURTH AND MOST NOTABLE MR 3 OUTPOST TO FALL IN RECENT WEEKS. WHILE THERE WERE NO OTHER MAJOR ACTIONS IN THE REGION, THE NVA/VC MAINTAINED INTENSE PRESSURE ON GVN POSITIONS IN WESTERN MR 3 AND ON THE PHUOC TUY/LONG KHANH BORDER IN THE EAST. AS THE WEEK CLOSED ARVN CONTINUED ON THE ALERT FOR MAJOR ENEMY ACTION AGAINST THE DUC HUE RANGER CAMP, THE TRANG BANG-CU CHI AREA OF NORTHERN HAU NGHIA, TRI TAM IN WESTERN BINH DUONG, DONG XOAI IN PHUOC LONG, PHU GIAO IN EASTERN BINH DUONG, OR ALL.

2. THE NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR 3 DROPPED TO 294, A MODERATE LET-UP COMPARED TO THE 366 AND 377 LEVELS OF THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS. THERE WERE 131 ATTACKS BY FIRE (174 A WEEK EARLIER), 60 GROUND CONTACTS AND SEVEN COMBINED FIRE AND GROUND INCIDENTS. MININGS REGISTERED AT THE RELATIVELY NORMAL LEVEL OF 50 AND THERE WERE 46 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS. COMMUNIST ARTILLERY TOTALED AT LEAST 2,282 MIXED ROUNDS (INCLUDING MORTARS) WHILE RVNAF FIRED 22,426 (2174 ROUNDS MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS WEEK). VNAF FLEW 335 SORTIES (ONLY ONE MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS WEEK). WITH TARGETS MOSTLY IN HAU NGHIA, PHUOC TUY, LOC NINH, BO DUC, AND AROUND TONLE CHAM. BOTH SIDES EXPERIENCED REDUCED CASUALTIES. THE GVN COUNTED 66 KIA 337 WIA AND 43 MIA, WELL BELOW LAST WEEK'S 151 KIA, 460 WIA AND 69 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE SET AT 142 KIA, 6 CIA AND 4 RALLIERS (COMPARED TO 409 KIA, 9 CIA AND 4 RALLIERS IN THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD).

3. AFTER BEING ISOLATED FOR TWO YEARS AND UNDER VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS NVA/VC ATTACK FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, THE TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP ON THE NORTHERN TAY NINH/BINH LONG BORDER FINALLY FELL

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TO THE COMMUNISTS DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 12.

4. IN HAU NGHIA COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE CONTINUED TO SHELL GVN POSITIONS IN DUC HUE DISTRICT AND HAVE DIRECTED HEAVY AA AGAINST RESUPPLY AND MEDIVAC HELICOPTERS ATTEMPTING TO SUPPORT THE DUC HUE RANGER CAMP.

5. MINING INCIDENTS AGAIN DOMINATED ACTIVITY IN LONG AN. IN ONE EXCEPTION, THE 761ST RF COMPANY IN THU THUA DISTRICT ENGAGED A COMMUNIST FORCE, KILLING 13 AND CAPTURING THE COMPANY COMMANDER WITH AN RF LOSS OF ONLY 1 KIA AND 5 WIA.

6. IN PHUOC LONG, GVN AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING FOR A DEFENSE OF DONG XOAI, THE DON LUAN SUB-SECTOR HEADQUARTERS, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS THAT THE 141ST NVA REGIMENT IS ENCIRCLING THE TOWN. DURING THE WEEK A RECONNAISSANCE UNIT OF PHUOC LONG SECTOR MADE A SURPRISE CONTACT WITH AN NVA/VC PLATOON KILLING 18 WITH NO

RVNAF LOSSES.

7. THE NATIONAL POLICE IN BINH DUONG REPORTED THAT SHORTLY AFTER NOON ON APRIL 15, 29 OF THE 61 FEMALE LABORERS KIDNAPPED FROM THE MICHELIN PLANTATION RETURNED THROUGH A GVN CHECKPOINT. NO FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS THIS REPORT IS PREPARED.

8. ICCS. ACCORDING TO THE INDONESIANS THEIR DELEGATION CONDUCTED THREE "OBSERVATIONS" THIS WEEK AT AN LOC, XUAN LOC AND THE MICHELIN PLANTATION AT TRAONWBR ##

A ##IRANIAN DELEGATION REPORTEDLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE, AS IT WAS "AWAITING ORDERS" ON THE FIRST TWO CASES AND WAS UNWILLING TO FLY TO TRI TAM IN AN RVNAF HELICOPTER IN THE LATTER CASE. INDODEL ALSO REPORTED THAT THE ICCS FACT FINDING TEAM COMPLETED ITS VISIT TO LAM SON AND CU CHI ON APRIL 9 AND 10. INDODEL SADLY NOTED THAT ARVN REP FORMALLY ADMITTED RVNAF ARTILLERY WAS LOCATED 1000 METERS FROM THE LAM SON ICCS COMPOUND. (CONGEN NOTE. THE ICCS TERHKKOOCNMS DESITE IN QUESTION AFTER THE ARTILLERY POSITION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.)

NOTE BY OCT: ## SAIGON 4986, SECTION 4 OF 6, AS RECEIVED.

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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LIMDIS

PART VIII MR 4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DECREASE IN THE DELTA WITH REPORTED INCIDENTS DROPPING TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY. CORPS REPORTS 242 INCIDENTS (321 LAST WEEK) INCLUDING 38 GROUND ATTACKS (44), 116 ABF'S (197), 73 HARASSMENTS (67), 2 SABOTAGE (NONE LAST WEEK) AND 13 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (14). GVN LOSSES ALSO DECLINED TO 136 KIA (161 LAST WEEK), 573 WIA (758), 5 MIA (39), AND 2 CREW-SERVED (1) AND 56 INDIVIDUAL (98) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 498 VC/NVA KIA (662 LAST WEEK), 11 SUSPECTS AND PRISONERS CAPTURED (9), AND 8 CREW-SERVED (26) AND 146 INDIVIDUAL (194) WEAPONS SEIZED. THE ENTIRE DELTA WAS RELATIVELY QUIET EXCEPT FOR DINH TUONG WHERE ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED ESPECIALLY IN THE WESTERN AREA OF THE PROVINCE. VC/NVA GOALS THERE CONTINUE TO BE COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES IN TRI PHAP, SECURING OF INFILTRATION ROUTES, AND WEAKENING OF GVN PRESENCE. AS A RESULT OF THE DECREASED NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE DELTA, BOOBY-TRAP INCIDENTS ACCOUNTED FOR A GREATER PROPORTION OF GVN CASUALTIES.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: DINH TUONG IS THE ONLY PROVINCE REPORTING

A HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. GVN OPERATIONS DECREASED BUT VC/NVA ACTIVITY INCREASED. GROUND ATTACKS INCREASED SHARPLY IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE PARTICULARLY IN GIAO DUC BUT ALSO IN CAI BE AND CIA LAY DISTRICTS. NO ROAD INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, BUT TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 30 TO CAO LANH WAS STILL AFFECTED BY THE BRIDGE MINING OF MARCH 29. A PF PLATOON WAS AMBUSHED IN GIAO DUC DISTRICT RESULTING IN TEN PF KIA. TEN M-16'S LOST IN THE INCIDENT ACCOUNTED FOR HALF OF THE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. THE MY LOI VILLAGE OFFICES IN GIAO DUC (D) WERE ATTACKED ON TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS RESULTING IN 4 PF KILLED AND DAMAGE TO THE VILLAGE AND POLICE OFFICES. TWO OB'S IN SOUTHERN CAI BE DISTRICT WERE OVERRUN AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN RETAKEN. ENEMY EFFORTS, AS IN THE RECENT PAST, SEEM TO BE DESIGNED TO OFFSET LOSSES SUSTAINED

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IN TRI PHAP, SUSTAIN INFILTRATION ROUTES, AND WEAKEN THE GVN PRESENCE ESPECIALLY IN THE 20 JULY AREA WHERE VC/NVA OPERATIONS IN THE PAST MONTH HAVE SEVERELY RESTRICTED GVN ACTIVITY. IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, 4 ROUNDS OF 82MM FELL IN BEN TRE CITY, THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR THAT THE PROVINCE CAPITAL HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MORTARING. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED, BUT EXTENSIVE DAMAGE OCCURRED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS COMPOUND. NEWLY-ESTABLISHED PHUOC HUNG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WAS THE TARGET OF 82MM MORTAR ON APRIL 12 AND 13. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET AND SECTOR BELIEVES THE THREAT TO KIEN VAN DISTRICT MAY HAVE BEEN THWARTED BY 14TH REGIMENT/9TH ARVN DIVISION SWEEPS THROUGH THE AREA. HALF THE VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE THIS WEEK RESULTED FROM BOOBY TRAPS. THE REST OF THE NORTHERN DELTA WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-07 PM-03 SP-01 H-01 EUR-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-10 DPW-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01

L-02 DRC-01 /087 W

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O R 171130Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3802

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CDR USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

CG FMFPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCUSARPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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(C) KIEN GIANG-CHUONG THIEN: ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE
DECREASED SHARPLY. FIVE VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED INDIRECT
FIRE ATTACKS. TWO ARVN REGIMENTS ARE NOW OPERATING IN THE
PROVINCE. THE 16TH REGIMENT OF THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION IS
OPERATING ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IN HA TIEN DISTRICT TO
INTERCEPT INFILTRATION GROUPS PASSING THROUGH THE TRAM FOREST,
WHILE THE 33RD REGIMENT OF THE 21ST DIVISION HAS BATTALIONS

IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT ALONG THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER AND ALONG THE CAI LON RIVER IN KIEN AN DISTRICT. IN THE WEEK'S MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT IN KIEN GIANG, A COMPANY OF THE 426 RF BATTALION AMBUSHED AN NVA COMPANY INFILTRATING ACROSS ROUTE 80 IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT, KILLING 12 AND CAPTURING 4. ONE OF THE PRISONERS WAS REPORTEDLY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NVA COMPANY THOUGH HER BIRTHPLACE WAS IN DINH TUONG. FOUR CIVILIANS (1 WOMAN AND 3 CHILDREN) WERE KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE. AN XUYEN REPORTS A LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND NO GROUND ATTACKS. IN CHUONG THIEN ACTIVITY DROPPED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE LATE FEBRUARY. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT THERE WAS THE LAUNCHING OF 5 ROUNDS OF 82MM INTO KIEN LONG SUBSECTOR RESULTING IN ONE POLICEMAN AND 7 CIVILIANS WOUNDED.

(D) BAC LIEU: THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE DECREASED, BUT THERE WAS VERY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN PHUOC LONG DISTRICT LATE IN THE WEEK. THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND AN OB IN VINH PHU VILLAGE WERE SHELLED ON APRIL 15 RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF A HAMLET CHIEF AND HIS WIFE IN THE OB. THESE APPARENTLY WERE DIVERSIONARY ATTACKS, HOWEVER, WITH THE REAL TARGETS BEING TWO STRATEGICALLY LOCATED OB'S ON THE PHO SINH CANAL. THESE OB'S WERE HIT WITH OVER 70 ROUNDS OF 60MM, 82MM AND B-40 FIRE FOLLOWED BY GROUND ASSAULTS. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE OB'S WAS LOST SOON AFTERWARD. AIR SURVEILLANCE BY SECTOR S-2 INDICATED BOTH OB'S WERE MORE THAN 80 PERCENT DESTROYED. HE BELIEVES THE ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED BY THE Z-8 BATTALION OF THE NVA D-2 REGIMENT. A LARGE REACTION FORCE WAS DISPATCHED TO RECAPTURE THE AREA, BUT HAD NOT REACHED THE OVERRUN OB'S AS OF THE FILING OF THIS SITREP. THEY HAD ENGAGED AN ESTIMATED TWO COMPANIES OF VC/NVA AND PRELIMINARY

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RESULTS OF THE CONTACT LISTED 4 RF KIA, 2 RF WIA, 58 VC/NVA KIA AND 9 INDIVIDUAL AND 1 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SEIZED.

(E) BA XUYEN AND MIDDLE DELTA. THE LOW NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE WAS CONCENTRATED IN SOUTHWEST HOA TU DISTRICT, WHERE ONE OB WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN NGA NAM AND LICH HOI THUONG DISTRICTS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE TET. THE TRINH THOI HAMLET CHIEF (THOI AN HOI VILLAGE, KE SACH DISTRICT) WAS KILLED WHEN HIS PSDF UNIT WAS AMBUSHED DURING A ROUTINE SECURITY PATROL. THE SITUATION IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE IS UNCHANGED. VINH BINH EXPERIENCED A DRAMATIC DROP IN ACTIVITY WITH ONLY SIX INCIDENTS (3 ENEMY-INITIATED) AND NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED. NEIGHBORING VINH LONG WAS ALSO RELATIVELY QUIET WITH NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED AND HALF THE ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM BOOBY TRAPS. IN SA DEC, ALL BUT ONE OF THE REPORTED ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS RESULTED FROM BOOBY TRAPS.

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